



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B01J 29/08, C10G 11/05	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/12454 (43) International Publication Date: 11 May 1995 (11.05.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US94/10989 (22) International Filing Date: 28 September 1994 (28.09.94) (30) Priority Data: 08/146,639 1 November 1993 (01.11.93) US (71) Applicant: ENGELHARD CORPORATION [US/US]; 101 Wood Avenue, Iselin, NJ 08830 (US). (72) Inventors: MADON, Rostam, J.; 17 Hendrick Road, Flemington, NJ 08822 (US). KOERMER, Gerald, S.; 37 Stonegate Drive, Roseland, NJ 07068 (US). MACAOAY, John, M.; 3009 Fedor Avenue, Linden, NJ 07036 (US). (74) Agents: MILLER, Stephen, I. et al.; Engelhard Corporation, 101 Wood Avenue, Iselin, NJ 08830 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: MODIFIED MICROSPHERE FCC CATALYSTS (57) Abstract An <i>in situ</i> process making improved zeolitic fluid cracking catalyst by spray drying a mixture of hydrous kaolin and spinel, essentially free from metakaolin, calcining the resulting microspheres to convert the hydrous kaolin to metakaolin, and reacting microspheres composed of a mixture of spinel and metakaolin forms of calcined clay with a seeded alkaline sodium silicate solution. The weight percent of hydrous kaolin in the starting (uncalcined) microspheres is greater than the spinel content.		

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MODIFIED MICROSPHERE FCC CATALYSTS

5 This invention relates to improvements in zeolitic fluid cracking catalysts (FCC) produced by an in situ reaction between an alkaline sodium silicate solution and microspheres composed of a mixture of two different forms of calcined kaolin clay, so-called "metakaolin" and "spinel". The former is sometimes referred to as "reactive" calcined kaolin and the latter as "kaolin calcined through the characteristic exotherm".

10 For many years a significant proportion of commercial FCC catalysts used throughout the world have been made by in situ synthesis from precursor microspheres containing kaolin that has been calcined at different severities prior to formation into microspheres by spray drying. Generally, these fluid cracking catalysts are microspheres composed of zeolite Y and matrix material, typically silica alumina. The detailed properties of the matrix can have a
15 profound impact on the properties and performance of a cracking catalyst. This is particularly true for in situ cracking catalysts where the zeolite Y is grown directly on/in the microsphere and is intimately associated with the matrix material. Certain catalysts are made with microspheres which initially contain a hydrous clay to spinel weight ratio between 40:60 to 50:50; the
20 microspheres are then calcined at a temperature below the exotherm to convert the hydrous clay component to metakaolin. These catalysts will be referred to as type A catalysts. Another type of catalyst is made by spray drying hydrous kaolin microspheres so that the calcined microsphere contains only metakaolin; spinel is not present. These catalysts will be referred to as type B
25 catalysts.

The catalytic properties of these catalysts are influenced by the starting microspheres from which they are made. Type B catalyst has lower coke and dry gas selectivities than type A catalyst, but it is difficult to reduce sodium to

low levels and, in the absence of rare earth cations, it is not as stable as Type A catalyst. Type B catalyst also does not have as good a bottoms upgrading capability as Type A catalyst. The latter is more stable and easier to process than Type B catalyst but has a higher dry gas and coke selectivity.

5 See US 4,493,902 for typical procedures used to make catalysts such as Type A catalysts using raw uncalcined kaolin and spinel as spray dryer feed, followed by calcination to convert the raw kaolin component to metakaolin and subsequent crystallization by reacting the microspheres in a seeded sodium silicate solution. The production of Type B catalysts is similar and involves
10 using only raw uncalcined kaolin as spray dryer feed, whereby calcination of the resulting microspheres results in microspheres in which essentially all of the calcined kaolin is present in metakaolin form.

15 An objective of this invention is to provide microspheres that result in catalysts that are more stable and easier to process than microspheres used to produce Type B catalysts, yet substantially retain the selectivity benefits of Type B catalysts, while having bottoms upgrading capability similar to Type A catalyst but with lower coke and dry gas selectivities.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 Applicants have found that the proportions of hydrous clay and fully calcined clay contained in the microsphere prior to in situ zeolite growth will significantly affect the properties and performance of the resulting catalyst. Furthermore, the resulting properties and performance attributes such as coke yield, bottoms upgrading, metals resistance, zeolite stability, activity and ease
25 of sodium removal do not vary linearly with the proportions of hydrous clay and fully calcined clay. As a result there is a certain range or window where all or most of the desirable properties and performance attributes are at or near optimal. Applicants have found that the boundaries of this window are defined

by the weight ratio of hydrous to fully calcined clay and are approximately 90:10 to 60:40.

Applicants' preferred method for making such catalysts involves initially preparing microspheres composed of combinations of hydrous clay and spinel such that the initial hydrous clay content, expressed as weight percent, is greater than the spinel content and the microspheres, at this point of the process, are essentially free from metakaolin. The microspheres also contain a silica binder, usually equal to or greater than 5 wt% of the spray dried particles which is provided by the addition of a sodium silicate solution. The microspheres are calcined at a predetermined temperature to convert the hydrous clay to metakaolin without altering the spinel level. In situ Y zeolite FCC catalysts are then made from these microspheres by subsequent crystallization in a seeded sodium silicate solution and ion exchanged to reduce sodium level.

Catalysts of this invention are more stable and more active than Type B catalyst. Furthermore, sodium can be removed more easily than with Type B catalyst. Also, catalysts of this invention have low coke and dry gas selectivities similar to those of Type B catalysts. The ease of sodium removal and high activity with concurrent low dry gas and coke yields make these modified microsphere catalysts excellent candidates for high octane catalysts, high isobutylene catalysts and improved (compared to Type B) bottoms upgrading catalysts.

Thus, the combination of spinel and metakaolin in calcined microspheres prior to crystallization, such that the hydrous clay content, wt%, in the starting microsphere is greater than the spinel content, leads to a more stable, more active catalyst, with greater ease of Na_2O removal than with calcined microspheres containing metakaolin alone. Depending on the combination of hydrous kaolin and metakaolin, the catalysts that are produced can mimic the beneficial properties of Type B and Type A catalysts and improve on the deficiencies of these two catalysts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Catalysts of the invention are made from precursor porous microspheres composed of calcined kaolin of which a major weight portion is metakaolin and a minor weight proportion of spinel and a sodium silicate binder. The precursor microspheres are reacted with seeds and an alkaline sodium silicate solution. The microspheres are crystallized to a desired zeolite content (typically ca. 55% - 65%), filtered, washed, ammonium exchanged, exchanged with rare-earth cations if required, calcined, exchanged a second time with ammonium ions, and calcined a second time if required.

Especially preferred compositions of the solids in the slurry which is spray dried to form porous microspheres that are calcined to prepare precursor microspheres are expressed as the weight percent of hydrated kaolin, metakaolin, and kaolin calcined through the exotherm on a binder-free basis; weight % SiO₂ binder is based on the total weight of dry microspheres and provided by a sodium silicate solution.

	<u>Especially preferred</u>	<u>Preferred</u>
Hydrated Kaolin	70 - 80	60 - 90
Metakaolin	0	0
Kaolin calcined through the exotherm	30 - 20	40 - 10
Sodium Silicate Binder (as SiO ₂)	5 - 17	2 - 25

A commercial source of powdered kaolin calcined through the exotherm, e.g., SATINTONE® No. 1 calcined kaolin, may be used in the preferred process for forming the spray dried microspheres composed of kaolin calcined through its exotherm and hydrous kaolin. Preferably, large, coarse hydrated kaolin clay, such as NOKARB® kaolin, is converted to this state by calcining the kaolin at least substantially completely through its characteristic exotherm. (The exotherm is detectable by conventional differential thermal analysis, DTA.) For example, a one inch bed of hydrated kaolin clay may be calcined for about 1-2 hours in a muffle furnace at a chamber temperature of about 1800°-1900°F to produce clay that has been calcined through its characteristic

exotherm, preferably without any substantial formation of mullite. During calcination, some of the finely divided clay agglomerates into larger particles. After completion of calcination, the agglomerated calcined clay is pulverized into finely divided particles before being introduced into the slurry that is fed
5 to the spray dryer.

The hydrated kaolin clay component of the especially preferred feed slurry can be suitably either one or a mixture of ASP® 600 or ASP® 400 kaolin. Preferably, all the clay, hydrated and calcined, is a low iron content, purified grade of clay. Purified water-processed kaolin clays from Middle Georgia
10 have been used with success. Silicate for the binder is preferably provided by sodium silicates with SiO_2 to Na_2O ratios of from 1.5 to 3.5 and especially preferred ratios of from 2.0 to 3.0.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention an aqueous slurry of finely divided hydrated kaolin clay, and clay that has been calcined through its
15 characteristic exotherm and sodium silicate binder is prepared. The aqueous slurry is then spray dried to obtain microspheres comprising a sodium silicate bonded mixture of hydrated clay and clay that has been calcined at least substantially through its characteristic exotherm. The microspheres have average particle diameters that are typical of commercial fluid catalytic
20 cracking catalysts, e.g., 65-85 microns. Suitable spray drying conditions are set forth in the '902 patent.

After spray drying, the microspheres are calcined at a temperature and for a time (e.g., for two hours in a muffle furnace at a chamber temperature of about 1350°F) sufficient to convert the hydrated clay component of the
25 microspheres to metakaolin, leaving the previously calcined clay components of the microspheres essentially unchanged. The resulting calcined porous microspheres comprise a mixture of metakaolin and kaolin clay calcined through its characteristic exotherm in which the two types of calcined clay are present in the same microspheres. Most preferably the calcined microspheres
30 comprise about 43 to 82% by weight metakaolin and about 33 to 10% by

weight kaolin clay that has been calcined through its characteristic exotherm. The balance is Na_2O and SiO_2 derived from sodium silicate. The calcined microspheres may include small amounts of mullite (which can be detected by X-ray analysis).

5 "Silica Retention" is advantageously practiced. The teachings of U.S. 4,493,902 at col. 12, l. 3-31, regarding silica retention are incorporated herein by cross-reference.

10 After crystallization, the microspheres contain crystalline Y-faujasite in the sodium form. In order to obtain a product having acceptable catalytic properties, it is necessary to replace sodium cations in the microspheres with more desirable cations. This may be accomplished by contacting the
15 microspheres with solutions containing ammonium or rare earth cations or both. The ion exchange step or steps are preferably carried out so that the resulting catalyst contains less than about 0.7%, most preferably less than about 0.5% and most preferably less than about 0.4%, by weight Na_2O . After
20 ion exchange, the microspheres are dried, preferably by flash drying, to obtain the microspheres of the present invention. In order to make 0 wt% rare earth (REO) catalysts, the Na^+ cations are exchanged by using only an ammonium salt such as NH_4NO_3 and without using any rare earth salt during exchange.
25 Such 0 wt% REO catalysts are especially beneficial as FCC catalysts that give higher octane gasoline and more olefinic product. Rare earth versions of catalysts of this invention, post treated after crystallization by ion-exchange with high levels of rare earth, e.g., by procedures such as described in the '902 patent, are useful when exceptionally high activity is sought and the
30 octane rating of the FCC gasoline produce is not of prime importance. Rare earth levels in the range of 0.1% to 12% usually between 0.5% and 7% (weight basis) are contemplated.

30 The preferred catalyst of the invention comprises microspheres containing at least 40% and preferably from 50 to 65% by weight Y-faujasite, expressed on the basis of the as-crystallized sodium faujasite form zeolite. As used

herein, the term Y-faujasite shall include synthetic faujasite zeolites exhibiting, in the sodium form, an X-ray diffraction pattern of the type described in Breck, Zeolite Molecular Sieves, p. 369, Table 4.90 (1974), and having a crystalline unit cell size, in the sodium form (after washing any crystallization mother liquor from the zeolite), of less than about 24.75Å as determined by the technique described in the ASTM standard method of testing titled "Determination of the Unit Cell Size Dimension of a Faujasite Type Zeolite" (Designation D3942-80) or by an equivalent technique. The term Y-faujasite shall encompass the zeolite in its sodium form as well as in the known modified forms, including, e.g., rare earth and ammonium exchanged forms and stabilized forms. The percentage of Y-faujasite zeolite in the microspheres of the catalyst is determined when the zeolite is in the sodium form (after it has been washed to remove any crystallization mother liquor contained within the microspheres) by the technique described in the ASTM standard method of testing titled "Relative Zeolite Diffraction Intensities" (Designation D3906-80) or by an equivalent technique. It is important to equilibrate the microspheres carefully before X-ray evaluations are made since equilibration can have a significant effect on the results.

It is preferred that the Y-faujasite component of the microspheres, in their sodium form, have a crystalline unit cell size of less than about 24.73Å and most preferably less than about 24.69Å. Typically, the Y-faujasite component of the microspheres has a crystalline unit cell size range of between 24.64-24.73Å, corresponding to a $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ molar ratio of the Y-faujasite of about 4.1-5.2.

The resulting catalyst after the first calcination should have a BET surface area of at least about 450 m^2/g , preferably over 475 m^2/g , and most preferably in the range of from about 475 m^2/g to about 550 m^2/g . The matrix surface areas should preferably be in the range 40 to 130 m^2/g , and most preferably in the range of from about 60 m^2/g to about 110 m^2/g .

Conditions useful in operating FCC units utilizing catalyst of the invention are well known in the art and are contemplated in using the catalysts of the invention. These conditions are described in numerous publications including Catal. Rev. - Sci. Eng., 18 (1), 1-150 (1978), which is incorporated herein by cross-reference.

The following tests were used in the accompanying illustrative examples.

MAT (microactivity test) is described in US Patent No. 4,493,902. Steaming conditions prior to testing are also described in US 4,493,902. The gas oil used in some of the tests described in this application was CTSGO 175. The properties of this gas oil are set forth in US 5,023,220. Two other heavier gas oils, CTSGO 3241 and CTSGO 2255, were also used to test the catalysts. All conversions reported herein are expressed on a weight basis.

CTSGO 3241

API @ 60°F = 19.7; Conradson carbon = 0.57; Pour point = 97°F; Aniline point = 163.5°F

Basic nitrogen = 420 ppm; Total nitrogen = 1320 ppm; Sulfur = 2.21 wt%; Na = 1.1 ppm;

Ni, V, Fe, Cu all 0.1 ppm or less.

Distillation, °F

20	Initial boiling pt.	538
	5 % off	658
	10 % off	698
	40 % off	808
	60 % off	864
25	80 % off	929
	90 % off	975

95 % off 1011

Final boiling pt. 1011

CTSGO 2255

5 API @ 60°F = 24.2; Conradson carbon = 0.50; Pour point = 88°F; Aniline point = 166°F

Basic nitrogen = 327 ppm; Total nitrogen = 1152 ppm; Sulfur = 2.1 wt%; Na = 1.7 ppm;

Ni = 0.7 ppm, V = 2.7 ppm, Fe = 0.6 ppm, Cu = 0.1 ppm.

Distillation, °F

10 Initial boiling pt. 394

5 % off 497

10 % off 556

40 % off 713

60 % off 785

15 80 % off 886

90 % off 997

Final boiling pt. 997

20 The acid solubility test described in US 5,023,220 can be used for the determination of the total acid solubility of calcined microspheres composed of metakaolin or of mixtures of fully calcined kaolin and metakaolin. The acid solubility is an indication of the relative amount of metakaolin in mixtures containing metakaolin and spinel because metakaolin has appreciable solubility in acid but spinel does not. The total acid solubility range for the calcined microspheres used to make catalysts of this invention range between about 23 and 37%. In carrying out the test, a one (1) gram of sample is leached with 50% HCl, the residue filtered ignited at 1000°C and weighed. The percent acid solubility is calculated from the weight loss. A loss on ignition is obtained to correct for volatile constituents.

25

A modification of ASTM Standard Test Method D-4365-85 was used for determining that portion of the total area of the catalyst ascribable to micropores, which may be interpreted in terms of percent zeolite and is called "zeolite area". Relative pressures (P/P_0) of 0.08, 0.11, 0.14, 0.17 and 0.20 were used for collecting the data, which was used to calculate the BET-area (total surface area) and the t-area (matrix surface area) by the DeBoer t-plot method. The method used differed from the ASTM method in that lower relative pressure points were not used if a negative intercept was obtained (paragraph 10.13.1) and the formula for calculating the t-area did not include the factor 0.975 (paragraph 11.14 and 11.14.1).

The FCC circulating pilot unit (used in Example 4) is a small scale fluid catalytic cracking unit operating at atmospheric pressure. It features a vertical lean phase riser reactor, a stripper that disengages the oil products from the catalyst, and a catalyst regenerator. The unit charges 2500 grams of catalyst and runs at a 7-15 gm/min oil rate.

The riser operates under a pseudo-adiabatic condition and uses nitrogen for dispersion of catalyst and oil. Catalyst evaluations are conducted by running 2 to 4 hour material balance runs. After products are disengaged from the catalyst in the stripper, the gas products are separated from the heavier condensate. The gas products are analyzed by online gas chromatography, while the condensed products are stored, weighed and analyzed in a simulation distillation gas chromatography (ASTM D2887). A packed column distillation (ASTM 2892) with 5:1 reflux is also used to separate products into various boiling point cuts.

EXAMPLES

In the accompanying illustrative examples, separate sets of starting spray dried microspheres were prepared using different proportions of hydrous kaolin to spinel. The weight ratios of hydrous clay to spinel were 90:10, 80:20, 70:30, 60:40 and 55:45 (prior to calcination and crystallization). Binder levels

for these catalysts were 5% as SiO_2 . Catalysts are referred to by their starting microsphere content; catalyst "7030" means one which has a starting hydrous clay to spinel weight ratio of 70:30. As examples, the "8020" catalyst was made from microspheres containing 374 g spinel, 1498 g ASP 600 hydrous kaolin clay, and 345 g N[®] brand sodium silicate solution; the 7030 catalyst was made from microspheres containing 562 g spinel, 1311 g ASP 600 hydrous kaolin clay, and 345 g N[®] brand sodium silicate solution; the 6040 catalyst was made from microspheres containing 749 g spinel, 1123 g ASP 600 hydrous kaolin clay, and 345 g N brand sodium silicate solution. The microspheres described here and used to make catalysts used in Examples 1 and 2 contain 5 wt% binder as SiO_2 . The zeolite was grown in situ using these microspheres with seeds, N brand sodium silicate, NaOH, and water, substantially as described in US 4,493,902. The preparation of seeds used in the tests is described in U.S. 4,631,261, the teachings of which are incorporated herein by cross-reference. Approximately 55 to 65 wt% Y zeolite (as determined by x-ray) was obtained in each of the cases. An example is given below:

The following amounts of components and weight ratios were used to make the 7030 catalyst:

Microspheres (7030) -----	600g
Seeds -----	464.2g
N [®] Brand Sodium Silicate Solution ---	2102.7g
NaOH (50%) -----	303.2g
Water -----	370.7g
$\text{SiO}_2/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ -----	2.73
$\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ -----	5.6977
$\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ -----	5.9700

Components were added to a 1 liter reaction kettle in the following order: N Brand sodium silicate, seeds, caustic, water, and microspheres. These were then agitated and heated to 210°F and maintained there until sufficient zeolite was grown.

EXAMPLE 1

Catalysts 7030 and 8020 (Table 1) were base exchanged using a series of exchanges consisting of mixing the catalyst in a water/ammonium nitrate solution, adjusting the pH to 3.0 -3.5 with 1:1 nitric acid, heating the slurry to 180°F, maintaining this temperature for 15 minutes, filtering on a Buchner funnel and rinsing the filter cake with deionized water comparable to 2 times the VF weight of catalyst. Amounts for the first initial exchanges on a 1 VFg catalyst basis were:

1. 1.5g 54% ammonium nitrate, 0.5g H₂O
2. 0.5g 54% ammonium nitrate, 1.75g H₂O

This material was then calcined at 1150°F, followed by a second series of 4 exchanges using 1.0 g 54% ammonium nitrate and 1.0 g H₂O per 1 VFg catalyst. The base exchanged catalyst was calcined for the second time at 1000°F to facilitate further ion exchange and three exchanges of 1.0 g 54% ammonium nitrate, 1.0 H₂O per 1 VFg catalyst were performed. The Na₂O levels decreased to 0.12 to 0.18 wt% after this treatment. These catalysts contained no rare earth cations. In contrast, the Na₂O level on Type B catalyst with 0 wt% REO after the second calcination and standard exchanges cannot be brought below about 0.4 wt%. Processing of 0 wt% REO Type B catalyst to get low Na₂O levels, leads to instability and loss in surface area.

Applicants explain this significant decrease in sodium after the second calcination as follows. During high temperature calcination there is sufficient thermal energy to enable sodium containing species to surface diffuse. If only metakaolin is present, the species readsorb on sites from which they are difficult to remove during base exchange. However, when spinel is present, different sites are now available during surface diffusion for the sodium species to readsorb on; these species on spinel sites are then readily removed. Spinel thus acts as a porthole for sodium removal.

Catalysts 8020 and 7030 with the low Na₂O levels were steamed at 1450°F for 4 hours. The catalysts are compared in Table 1 with 0 wt% REO Type B

steamed at the same conditions. Data in Table I shows that the modified
microsphere catalysts have higher Y zeolite surface areas. They are more
active, at the conditions studied, as noted from the blend ratio required to give
71-72% conversion. Product yields are very similar to Type B catalyst. The
5 MAT work was done with light CTSGO 175 gas oil.

EXAMPLE 2

In Table 2, catalyst 7030 with 1.2 wt% REO is compared to Type B and
Type A catalysts. The catalyst was made as in Example 1 except just before
the first calcination the catalyst was exchanged with rare earth nitrate solution
10 to get a 1.2 wt% REO catalyst. The 7030 catalyst used in this example was
not calcined a second time. Catalysts were all steamed at 1450°F for 4 hours
in 100% steam. In the presence of REO, Na₂O was brought down to 0.32
wt% after only one calcination for the 7030 catalyst. Two calcinations are
required to get to the 0.3 wt% Na₂O level for Type B. The Roller Attrition
15 Index of the 7030 catalyst was 6.7, indicating a material whose hardness is
compatible with refinery needs. The 7030 catalyst was significantly more
active than Type B catalyst as seen from the blend ratio with inerts needed to
get 70% conversion. The 7030 catalyst had the same dry gas yields as Type B
catalyst but lower than with Type A catalyst. Also, coke yields with 7030
20 were closer to those obtained with Type B catalyst and are lower than with
Type A catalyst. Standard MAT conditions were used as with Example 1;
light gas oil CTSGO 175 was used.

EXAMPLE 3

7030 microspheres were made containing a clay composition of 70 %
25 ASP 600 hydrous kaolin clay and 30% spinel. The binder level of the
microsphere was 14.1 wt% as SiO₂. The binder used was #14 silicate;
SiO₂/Na₂O = 2.88. The microspheres were calcined at 1500°F for 1 hour to
transform all the hydrous to metakaolin. The zeolite was grown in situ using
these microspheres with seeds, N-brand sodium silicate, NaOH, and water,
30 substantially as described in US 4,493,902.

The following amounts of components and weight ratios were used to make the 7030 catalyst:

	Microspheres (7030) -----	100g
	Seeds -----	68.97g
5	N Brand -----	247.7g
	Caustic (50%) -----	34.7g
	Water -----	83.96g
	SiO ₂ /Na ₂ O -----	2.86
	H ₂ O/Na ₂ O -----	6.00
10	SiO ₂ /Al ₂ O ₃ -----	5.8

Components were added to a 1 liter reaction kettle in the following order:

N Brand sodium silicate solution, seeds, caustic, water, and microspheres.

These were then agitated and heated to 210°F and maintained there until sufficient zeolite was grown. The 7030 catalyst was base exchanged using a series of exchanges consisting of mixing the catalyst in a water/ammonium nitrate solution, adjusting the pH to 3.0 -3.5 with 1:1 nitric acid, heating the slurry to 180°F, maintaining this temperature for 15 minutes, filtering on a Buchner funnel and rinsing the filter cake with deionized water comparable to two times the VF weight of catalyst. Amounts for the first initial exchanges on a 1 VFg catalyst basis were:

1. 1.5g 54% ammonium nitrate, 0.5g H₂O
2. 0.5g 54% ammonium nitrate, 1.75g H₂O

Rare earth was then exchanged onto the catalyst using a nitrate salt to give a final REO value of 1.0 wt%. The rare earth was a commercial mixture composed primarily of lanthanum and cerium. This material was then calcined at 1150°F, followed by a second series of exchanges using 1.0 g 54% ammonium nitrate and 1.0 g H₂O per 1 VFg catalyst each time. The base exchanged catalyst was calcined for the second time at 1150°F.

Table 3 shows the characteristics of the catalyst and the comparison using MAT with rare earth containing Type A and Type B catalysts. All catalysts were steamed at 1450°F for 4 h. A heavy gas oil CTSGO 2252 was used for the tests. MATs were run for each catalyst at several catalyst/oil ratios to vary conversion. Results in Table 3 are statistically correlated at 70% conversion. Even with the heavier gas oil the 7030 catalyst gives lower coke yield than Type A or Type B catalyst.

EXAMPLE 4

7030 microspheres were made containing a clay composition of 70% ASP 600 hydrous kaolin clay and 30% spinel. The binder level of the microsphere was 14.1 wt% as SiO_2 . The binder used was #14 silicate. The microspheres were calcined at 1500°F for 1 h to transform all the hydrous clay to metakaolin.

The following amounts of components and weight ratios were used to make the 7030 catalyst:

Microspheres (7030)	-----	17.607 kg
Seeds	-----	14.014 kg
N-Brand	-----	42.488 kg
Caustic (50%)	-----	5.557 kg
Water	-----	14.449 kg
$\text{SiO}_2/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$	-----	2.88
$\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$	-----	6.00
$\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	-----	5.8

The seeds used contained 38.1% solids, 21.8% SiO_2 , 0.49% Al_2O_3 and 13.5% Na_2O ; the N Brand contained 29.0% SiO_2 and 8.98% Na_2O .

All components except microspheres were added to a 25 gallon pilot plant reactor, and stirred for about 30 mins. Microspheres were then added and the starting temperature was about 95°F. The mix was stirred continuously and the

temperature was raised to 210°F in about 25 min. The reactor was held at temperature for 20 hours at which point about 60 wt% NaY zeolite was formed. This value was obtained via standard X-ray diffraction. Reactor was then emptied manually into pan filters, washed with about 10 gallons of hot (180°F) deionized water followed by cold deionized water. Filter cake was then placed in four large pans and dried in an oven set at 230°F for approximately 18 hours. The dried sample was screened to retain -60 mesh material. It had a total surface area of 515 m²/g and matrix surface area of 48 m²/g, and a unit cell size of 24.66 Å.

The dried catalyst, 24.62 kg, was base exchanged using 33.237 kg of 54% ammonium nitrate solution and 16 kg of deionized water at 180°F in a stirred 25 gallon vessel. The pH was adjusted to 3.0. Catalyst was added in small quantities while adjusting the pH with concentrated nitric acid; pH was not allowed to exceed 4.0. After all catalyst addition was complete the mix was allowed to react for 15 min. The catalyst was then filtered on pan filters and washed with cold deionized water. A similar second base exchange was carried out again. But this time only 16.0 kg of 54% ammonium nitrate solution and 33.237 kg of deionized water were used. The pH during catalyst addition was held between 3.0 and 3.3; final pH during exchange remained at 3.13. After filtering and washing, the filter cake was dried overnight at 230°F. The catalyst at this point contained 3.67 wt% Na₂O, and the LOI (loss on ignition) corresponded to 25.4 wt%.

The dried material was calcined after making sure that the moisture content of the sample was 25 wt%. Calcination was performed on flat trays in a furnace at 1150°F for 2 hours. The total surface area of the calcined catalyst was 442 m²/g and the matrix surface area was 95 m²/g. The unit cell size was 24.68 Å.

Base exchange was carried out on the calcined catalyst again using the large 25 gallon vessel; 18.2 kg ammonium nitrate and 18.2 kg deionized water were used, the temperature was 180°F and the pH was kept between 3.0 and

3.3. The material was exchanged for 15 minutes then filtered and washed with cold water. This exchange process was repeated six more times. The material was then oven dried at 250°F. Analysis at this stage showed the Na₂O content to be 0.47 wt% and the LOI to be 17.4 wt%. The total surface area of the catalyst was 407 m²/g and the matrix surface area was 82 m²/g. The unit cell size was 24.57 Å.

The dried base exchanged material was calcined after making sure that the moisture content of the sample was 25 wt% to assure that the zeolite would undergo "ultrastabilization" during the calcination. Calcination was done on flat trays in a furnace at 1150°F for 2 hours. The total surface area of the calcined catalyst was 376 m²/g and the matrix surface area was 97 m²/g, while the unit cell size was 24.41 Å.

A blend of 90 wt% catalyst and 10 wt% inerts was made using 2700 g of the above described 7030 catalyst with 300 g of inerts. This blend was subjected to steam treatment. The blend was placed in a fluid bed steamer at room temperature and a 1368 cc/min nitrogen flow. Temperature was increased to 1400°F at which point steam was introduced, and the N₂ flow was cut back so that the steam amount was 90 vol%. The final temperature was 1450°F. The blend was steamed for 8 hours and then the temperature was cut and steam was simultaneously shut down. The catalyst was cooled to room temperature in flowing N₂. A Type A catalyst blend containing 76% catalyst and 24% inerts was similarly steamed for 9 hours.

The 7030 catalyst and the Type A catalyst were tested using the heavy CTSO 3241 gas oil in a pilot unit. The pilot unit was used instead of the standard MAT unit to study bottoms upgrading capability. The following temperatures were used: regenerator = 1225°F, regenerator crossover = 1049°F, riser bottom = 956°F, oil inlet = 272°F, log mean temperature of riser = 977°F, stripper = 948°F, spent catalyst = 402°F, feed preheat = 300°F. Regenerator air flow was 9.26 l/min; and the regenerator N₂ flow was 3.52 l/min. The oil feed rate was 9.79 g/min and the oil residence time in the

riser was 2.3 s. Catalysts were studied at different catalyst/oil ratios which were obtained by varying the catalyst circulation rate. The results in Table 4 are statistically correlated to give values at 70% conversion. It was noted that with the heavy oil used the coke yields are lower with the 7030 catalyst
5 without negatively affecting similar gasoline or bottoms yields.

Table 1

Comparison of 8020 and 7030 with Type B Catalyst Using a Light Gas Oil
 Standard MAT conditions used; 910°F, 5 catalyst/oil ratio, 1.2 g oil delivered
 in 48 s;

5 gas oil used = CTSGO 175; The catalysts were all substantially free from
 REO

	Catalyst	8020	7030	Type B	Type B
				Set 1	Set 2
	Na ₂ O, wt%	0.18	0.12	0.43	0.43
	SiO ₂ , wt%	66.6	64.6	68.0	68.0
10	Al ₂ O ₃ , wt%	30.9	32.4	28.0	28.0
	Surface areas				
	Total, m ² /g	254	259	232	232
	Matrix, m ² /g	74	78	62	62
	Blend;	80/20	80/20	100/0	100/0
15	cat/inert				
	Conversion,	71	72	71	72
	wt%				
	Yields, wt%				
	Hydrogen	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.35
20	Total dry gas	1.23	1.21	1.24	1.22
	LPG	14.9	15.7	14.5	15.2
	Gasoline	50.8	50.9	51.2	51.9
	Coke	3.74	3.73	3.63	3.74

Table 2

Comparison of Rare Earth Containing 7030 Catalyst with Type A and Type B Catalysts Using Light CTSGO 175 Gas Oil.

MAT conditions as given in Example 1.

5	Catalyst	7030	Type B	Type A
	Na ₂ O, wt%	0.32	0.3	0.25
	SiO ₂ , wt%	63.3	65.4	54.3
	Al ₂ O ₃ , wt%	32.5	30.1	40.6
	REO, wt%	1.2	1.1	1.0
10	Surface areas			
	Total, m ² /g	294	230	321
	Matrix, m ² /g	92	64	128
	Blend; cat/inert	51/49	70/30	60/40
15	Conversion, wt%	70.1	70.9	71.8
	Yields, wt%			
	Hydrogen	0.03	0.03	0.05
	Total dry gas	0.99	1.00	1.25
20	LPG	13.4	13.7	14.0
	Gasoline	52.4	53.1	52.5
	Coke	3.13	2.86	3.86

Table 3

Comparison of Rare Earth Containing 7030 Catalyst with Type A and Type B Catalysts Using Heavy CTSGO 2255 Gas Oil.

	Catalyst	7030	Type B	Type A
5	Na ₂ O, wt%	0.26	0.29	0.27
	SiO ₂ , wt%	62.4	68.0	56.1
	Al ₂ O ₃ , wt%	33.2	27.7	41.0
	REO, wt%	1.0	1.1	1.0
Surface areas				
10	Total, m ² /g	329	294	330
	Matrix, m ² /g	93	79	126
	Blend; cat/inert	70/30	75/25	70/30
Yields, wt%				
15	Total dry gas	2.3	2.3	2.2
	LPG	15.1	14.8	14.2
	Gasoline	46.8	46.8	46.8
	Coke	5.8	6.1	6.8

Table 4

Comparison of a 7030 Catalyst with Type A Catalyst, Both Containing No Rare Earth Cations, Using Heavy CTSGO 3241 Gas Oil in a Pilot Unit.

Yields at 70 wt% conversion.

5	Catalyst	7030	Type A
	Na ₂ O, wt%	0.41	0.26
	SiO ₂ , wt%	64.3	55.8
	Al ₂ O ₃ , wt%	33.2	39.6
	Surface areas		
10	Total, m ² /g	277	294
	Matrix, m ² /g	75	130
	Blend; cat/inert	90/10	76/24
	Yields, wt%		
15	Hydrogen	0.04	0.05
	Total Dry Gas	1.5	1.6
	LPG	15.7	13.5
	Gasoline	47.7	48.1
	Coke	5.1	6.8
20	LCO	15.3	15.2
	Bottoms	14.7	14.8

We claim:

1. A zeolitic fluid catalytic cracking catalyst having reduced coke yield and produced by the steps comprising:

5 (a) forming an aqueous slurry containing about 60 to 90 parts by weight hydrated kaolin clay and about 40 to 10 parts by weight kaolin clay that has been calcined through its characteristic exotherm, and binder;

(b) spray drying the aqueous slurry to obtain microspheres;

10 (c) calcining the microspheres obtained in step (b) at a temperature and for a time sufficient to convert the hydrated kaolin clay in the microspheres substantially to metakaolin, but insufficient to cause metakaolin or hydrated kaolin to undergo the characteristic kaolin exotherm and to provide microspheres of calcined clay having a ratio of metakaolin to clay calcined through the exotherm in excess of 1:1;

15 (d) mixing the microspheres obtained in step (c) with sodium silicate and water to obtain an alkaline slurry;

(e) heating the slurry of microspheres of calcined clay to a temperature and for a time sufficient to crystallize at least about 40% by weight Y-faujasite in the microspheres, said Y-faujasite being in the sodium form;

20 (f) and ion-exchanging the microspheres from step (e) with an ammonium salt solution.

2. The catalyst of claim 1 wherein said slurry in step (a) is substantially free from metakaolin.

25 3. The catalyst of claim 1 wherein the clay that has been calcined at least substantially through its characteristic exotherm contains substantially no mullite.

4. The catalyst of claim 1 wherein the kaolin calcined through the exotherm is present in amount in the range of about 35 to 20 parts by weight to about 65 to 80 parts by weight hydrated kaolin clay in step (a).

5. The catalyst of claim 1 in which said binder is a sodium silicate solution.

6. The catalyst of claim 5 in which the binder level as SiO_2 is between about 2 to 25 wt% of the microspheres in step (a).

5 7. The catalyst of claim 5 in which the binder level as SiO_2 is between about 4 to 17 wt% of the microspheres in step (a).

8. The method for making a high zeolite content fluid catalytic cracking catalyst comprising the steps of

10 (a) forming an aqueous slurry containing about 90 to 60 parts by weight hydrated kaolin clay and about 10 to 40 parts by weight kaolin clay that has been calcined through its characteristic exotherm, and sodium silicate binder, said slurry being substantially free from metakaolin;

 (b) spray drying the aqueous slurry to obtain microspheres;

15 (c) calcining the microspheres obtained in step (b) at a temperature and for a time sufficient to convert the hydrated kaolin clay in the microspheres substantially to metakaolin, but insufficient to cause metakaolin or hydrated kaolin to undergo the characteristic kaolin exotherm and to provide microspheres of calcined clay having total acid solubility between about 23 and 37%;

20 (d) mixing the microspheres obtained in step (c) with sodium silicate, sodium hydroxide and water to obtain an alkaline slurry;

25 (e) heating the slurry of microspheres of calcined clay to a temperature and for a time sufficient to crystallize at least about 40% by weight Y-faujasite in the microspheres, said Y-faujasite being in the sodium form.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein from 50 to 65% by weight Y-faujasite is crystallized in the microspheres in step (e).

10. The method of claim 8 including the steps of:

(f) separating the microspheres containing at least 40% by weight Y-faujasite from at least a major portion of its mother liquor;

5 (g) replacing sodium cations in the microspheres separated in step (e) with ammonium ions or ammonium ions and thereafter rare earth ions;

(h) calcining the microspheres from step (a) to facilitate release of sodium ions;

(i) further exchanging the microspheres with ammonium ions to reduce Na_2O content to below 1% and

10 (j) further calcining the microspheres to reduce the unit cell size of the zeolite.

11. The process of claim 10 in which the rare earth content expressed as rare earth oxide, REO, is between 0.1 wt% and 12 wt%.

12. The process of claim 10 in which the rare earth content
15 expressed as rare earth oxide, REO, is between 0.5 wt% and 7 wt%.

13. The process of claim 10 in which the sodium content expressed as Na_2O is between 0.05 and 1.0 wt%.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Application No

PCT/US 94/10989

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 B01J29/08 C10G11/05

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 B01J C10G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP,A,0 369 629 (ENGELHARD) 23 May 1990 see page 8, line 2 - line 10; claims 1-10	1-10
Y	---	11-13
Y	FR,A,2 156 158 (GRACE) 25 May 1973 see claims 1-4	11-13
A	---	
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☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 January 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

20.01.95

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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